

On The Road To Gibsland

BARROW-PARKER NEWSLETTER

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REMEMBERING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMBUSH OF CLYDE & BONNIE

"BONNIE PARKER"

Visits Gibsland in preparation for Off-Broadway By Joe Black

"BONNIE PARKER," the critically acclaimed, one-woman show about Clyde Barrow's better half, will play a special performance at this year's Bonnie and Clyde Festival. Old Ma Canfield's Diner in downtown Gibsland, the last place the infamous couple visited before their death, will host the event May 22 at 1:00 p.m. This will be the Louisiana premiere of Dixie Sedgwick's award-winning play, which is bound for a return engagement in New York City.

The play premiered as "Inside Bonnie Parker" in September of 1999 at the Circle Theatre in Fort Worth's Sundance Square. The Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram and The DFW Observer all reviewed the work very favorably. A month later, the show transferred to the DOOR Theatre, Dallas. During the opening run, Question and Answer Sessions after selected shows were very popular and continue, with help from many historians.

Originally titled "Little Blue-Eyed Girl" (Clyde's pet name for her), the play took years to research and write. Production began in 1998 with a workshop at Main Street Theatre in Mansfield, Texas. A completed draft then showcased at Deep Ellum Opera Theatre in Dallas. Marie Barrow brought an entourage of Buddy Barrow, historians Jonathan Davis, Ken Holmes, and Boots Hinton, whose father helped kill Bonnie and Clyde. Over the years, all of them kindly offered edits that have made the play more accurate.



Actress Dixie Sedgwick brings Bonnie Parker back to life.

The production has toured many cities, some the Barrow Gang visited, including Weatherford, Plano, Cleburne, Granbury, Denton, Kaufman and Garland, Texas. The title became "BONNIE PARKER" for a successful Off-Broadway limited run at the Blue Heron Arts Center in New York City, in 2002, selling out nine of 13 shows. The show has also played engagements in four Dallas theatres, including for the Dallas Historical Society at Fair Park.

Accuracy became very important to Ms. Sedgwick and her collaborator, Producer/ Director Joe Black, because the facts about the outlaws are more interesting than the fiction. As information was revealed by the Barrows, Parkers and others, improvements to the story were made. The final draft was completed in July of 2003. The play uses Bonnie's poems, extracts from her diary and the lovers' letters, and information from Blanche Bar-

row's prison journal.

There have been many newspaper articles, radio interviews and television appearances for and about the play in Texas and the New York market. In every market where the play has been produced, there has been media interest. In Dallas, Ms. Sedgwick and "BONNIE" were the subjects of Glen Mitchell's National Public Radio show, with historian/author John Neal Phillips.

The Bonnie Parker Company is offering shares in preparation for a longer Off-Broadway run within the year.

Advance tickets may be purchased from Southwest Historical, Inc. at 214-747-2362 or during the historians meeting Friday night in Gibsland.

Reviews and Comments:

"Sedgwick holds every color at her command. BONNIE PARKER could and should have a long life in New York City."

"CHICAGO" Conductor, Jeff Savor

"I saw the play three times and saw something different each time: So many layers you can't take it all in the first time. It's gut-wrenching." Actress Karen Colazzo

"Real history comes alive!" Ken M. Holmes, Jr., Historian

"The best Bonnie since the 1934 original." Jonathon Davis, Historian

"Great show!" John Neal Phillips Author "Running with Bonnie and Clyde"

"Bonnie incarnate" Boots Hinton

"Bonnie Parker Steals Hearts... Revealing and disarming. Given Ms. Sedgwick's riveting stage presence, we don't care whom she's talking to as long as she keeps talking." Dallas Morning News Critic, Tom Sime



September 2003 vandals over turn historical Bonnie & Clyde Marker at the ambush site near Gibsland, Louisiana.

AUTHENTIC BONNIE & CLYDE FESTIVAL - May 21 & 22, 2004

By Billie Gene Poland, Pres. Festival Committee

It's been 70 years since Bonnie & Clyde road the back roads of Bienville Parish, Louisiana. They rested in a place near the town of Castor in the southern part of the parish, preparing their next move.

There plans were to rob the Ringgold and Castor banks and flee to Mexico, whose border could be reached from this area of Louisiana in a short time.

However, the law had other plans. They knew Bonnie and Clyde were in the area and they started making other plans for the infamous pair.

It was a well known fact Clyde and Bonnie had boasted they would never be taken alive. Law men and others had met their deaths at the hands of this wild pair.

Gibsland, La in Bienville Parish with the Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Festival, recreates the action which took place in the demise of Bonnie and Clyde and their lawless activities.

It was well known that Bonnie and Clyde always came out with their guns blazing and that they had already killed twelve people and maybe more....

The law made their plans and the ambush site was selected.

The re-enactment of this event is done at the site where death came to Bonnie & Clyde by Re-enactments E.T.C. of Denison, Texas. This group of fine actors is headed by Robert "Bob" Elston also of Denison, Texas. There will also be two robbery shootouts in downtown plus other entertainment, plenty of good food, entertainment for children, music in the streets, gospel singing, cake walks and other activities throughout these two days.

The Lorraine Joyner Historical group will meet on Friday night and enjoy a Cajun Gumbo & Jambalaya Supper with speakers telling what they know about Bonnie and Clyde.

There is also an antique car parade at noon on Saturday; the Authentic Bonnie and Clyde museum will be open on days with memorabilia plus Bonnie and Clyde t-shirts and other souvenirs.

The committee for the Authentic Bonnie & Clyde Festival invites you to Gibsland, Louisiana on May 21st and May 22nd to share in all the events to take place.

Schedule of Events

Come out and join the fun and entertainment planned for this 70th year of history.

Friday*** Booths will be set up after 1:00 pm on Friday May 21st.

That evening Bonnie & Clyde writers, historians, collectors, etc. gather at 6:00 pm for the "Lorraine Joyner Memorial Historian Meeting and dinner. \$5.00 per person donation will be asked to help cover expenses. Outside at 6 pm there will be a Gospel Explosion featuring Angel Storm, Teens for Christ, Kelly Copeland, various praise dance groups and more. Live street dancing with D.J. Doug. Starts at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday activities will include Lions Club - pancake breakfast - \$5.00. Various food vendors and arts & crafts for all ages. Dixie Concessions will have rides. Re-Enactments morning and late afternoon. Live entertainment throughout the day featuring Joan Atwell, Nathan Jump, James Woods and Angel Storm.

. Antiques Car Parade etc. Schedule for Saturday may be amended.

8:00-10:00 Lions Club Pancake Breakfast \$5.00

9:00-10:00 Live Entertainment

10:30-11:00 am -Cakewalk

11:00-11:30 am Live Entertainment

11:30-12:00 (noon) E.J. Colvin Cloggers

12:00 (noon) Parade

1:00-2:00 pm Bonnie Parker Co. presents play \$10.

1:00-2:00 pm (outside) Live Entertainment

2:00-2:20 pm Shoot-Out

2:30-3:00 pm Cake Walk

3:00 Live Entertainment

4:00 Ambush @ ambush site (Marker - We will be using the Warren Beatty & Faye Dunaway Bonnie and Clyde Movie Car.)

Historians Meeting by Ken M. Holmes, Jr.

Starting plans for each years meeting is always a big surprise to me. You just don't know what will happen. This year holds no exception. If you are making plans to come to the Lorraine Joyner's (she is the one that got all of this started) Memorial Historians Meeting and dinner, you will need to be in Gibsland Louisiana at 6 p.m. Friday, May 21st for the best Cajun gumbo dinner of your life. We have been invited to use the Ma Canfields cafe building (newly restored) by the owner, James Walker. Raised in Gibsland, Walker is a big man with a big heart. He wants to give back to his home town by restoring many of its old buildings.

Our meeting starts at 7 p.m., and I say our because all of you that come will be a big part of its success. Each year we go around the room and let each person give their name and home and any interesting Bonnie and Clyde stories they may have. Sometimes family of some of the folks involved will show up. We have a real treat this year with James Woods who sings his dad's song from 1934 on Bonnie and Clyde, along with the story that goes with it. Dixie Sedgwick will give us a good long sample of her Bonnie Parker play that will be performed on Saturday at 1 p.m.. Buddy (Barrow) Williams will be the key speaker giving us the Barrow family side of the story. Roy Nelson will unveil his 1934 Bonnie and Clyde Death Car Scale Model. Many of the book authors will be there and by VHS tape Winston Ramsey of England, author of "The Trail of Bonnie and Clyde Then and Now" will talk to us and introduce his key investigator Marty Black who will be at the meeting and will speak also... and I'm sure there will be more as if that's not enough. Hope to see you there. Call me if you need to talk 214-747-2362. Can you believe its 70 years and the story won't die. See you in Gibsland.

Attn: Winston Ramsey, Editor-in-Chief - "After The Battle", England

Subject: Crimes of the Barrow Gang in Hillsboro, Texas

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

Your letter was referred to me because I have done research on the killing of Mr. John Bucher and personally knew his son, Oscar, who is now deceased. The grandson of Mr. Bucher lives in San Antonio, Texas. There is still a house at the location now but it is not the house the murder occurred in. I am not aware any pictures locally of the house as it was in 1930.

Mr. Bucher and members of his family are buried in Ridge Park Cemetery on the north side of Hillsboro, within the city limits. He shares a tombstone with his second wife, Madora. Mrs. Bucher was what Americans would call a "jack of all trades," meaning he had a variety of occupations. He sold various hardware items, was a jeweler, and repaired bicycles, among other things. At the time of his death he had about \$500 worth of diamonds in his safe, which was stolen. The State of Texas offered a reward for the return of the diamonds but I do not believe any were recovered. Despite popular belief, Clyde Barrow had nothing to do with the robbing or killing of John Bucher in Hillsboro. To his dying day Raymond Hamilton said a friend of his, who was deceased by the time of Ray's capture, had killed Mr. Bucher. It is said that a man named Ted Rogers did the killing.

The newspaper file from "The Hillsboro Evening Mirror" (Daily) and "The Hillsboro Mirror" (Weekly) covers a period of about two years 1932 - 34. There is an item in nearly ever paper from the time of Mr. Bucher's death to Raymond Hamilton's execution. Raymond had family in Itasca area, just 8 miles from Hillsboro, and had spent time visiting with local families before he became a criminal. Thus, there was a lot of local interest in him; plus, the fact the Barrows passed in and out of this area during their bank robberies. For more extensive information on the Barrow gang Mr. Ken M. Holmes, Jr., whose address I will show below, puts out a Barrow-Parker Newsletter and has a "traveling exhibit on the Barrow-Parker escapades. Ken is a historian and law enforcement officer, and would be able to answer a lot of your questions.

I hope this is of some help to you. Let me know what you want me to send in more detail.

Sincerely yours,

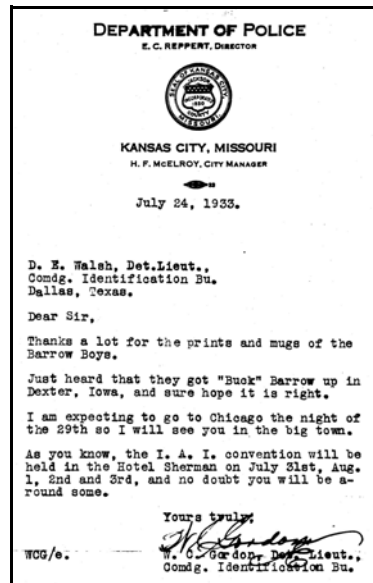
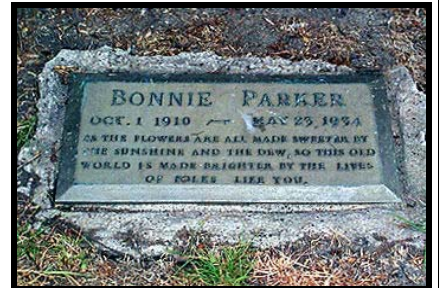
(Mrs.) Cleo Young Davis
Hillsboro Texas.



Cleo Davis discussed changes in the "Bucher Store" with it's current resident.

Dallas Historical Society Offers
The Legend of BONNIE & CLYDE TOUR
Reservations (214) 421-4500 Extension 105 Ask for Frank
Monday (Memorial Day Holiday), May 31, 2004 &
Saturday, December 4, 2004

Uncover the lives of those famous outlaw lovers from Dallas, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. This action-packed adventure includes stops in West Dallas, Oak Cliff, Dallas, and the now modern ambush highways of Irving. See the last remaining building in Dallas where Bonnie worked as a young "porcelain skinned" waitress; where Clyde was hustled away daily by the "Laws" and the location of an attempted ambush of Bonnie and Clyde at Esters Road and Highway 183. Participants will also visit a "safe house" where a gunfight broke out between Clyde Barrow and six officers in 1933, the site of the Barrow's Star Service station as well as the graves of both Bonnie & Clyde. The tour will be led by local author John Neal Phillips, who published Running with Bonnie and Clyde: The Ten Fast Years of Ralph Fults.



Letter from Kansas City, Mo. P.D. to Dallas, Tx. P.D.

New Books this Year



On the Trail of Bonnie and Clyde Then and Now c. 2003 edited by Winston G. Ramsey \$59.95 available through Southwestern Historical Publications 214-747-2362



Bonnie and Clyde - A 21ST Century update c. 2003 by James R. Knight with Jonathon Davis \$29.95 available through - Eakin Press and Southwestern Historical Publications



Funeral

Wade McNabb

Killed March 29, 1934 by Joe Palmer

On March 29th McNabb and his brother were in a domino parlor in Gladewater, Texas. This is the last time Wade was seen alive.

On April 3, 1934, an anonymous letter and map was sent to a reporter of the Houston Press. Later Wade was found with 6 shots to the head, laying face down in a damp clearing near Waskom, Texas.

The letter stated that the body of "One of the Texas prison system worst rats could be found". And that he had been "Put on the spot" because of treatment of fellow prisoners.

Joe Palmer was a one time Barrow Gang Member. He was executed in Huntsville, Texas in 1935. For more information read "Over The Wall" by Pat McConal.



Fort Worth arrest photo of Clyde Barrow - Photo Fort Worth Police Department.

\$500 Lancaster Bank
Loot Found on Barrow

Sheriff Smoot Schmid telephoned from Arcadia Wednesday night that \$500 in currency was taken from Clyde Barrow's body before the inquest was held. The money is believed to be a part of the loot from the Lancaster bank.

At the autopsy a bullet from an old wound was found in Bonnie's left leg below the knee. It was the bullet she received in the skirmish with officers at Sowers last November. Dallas officers were given the bullet.

Deputy Sheriff Alcorn was the witness among the officers who identified both Clyde and Bonnie. He had personally known both of them.

At the inquest were introduced in evidence two Browning automatic shotguns, with both stocks and barrels sawed off; three au-

tomatic rifles; 10 automatic pistols and about 1500 rounds of ammunition. In the car were blankets and sleeping equipment for two persons.

Deputy Decker left for Dallas Wednesday night, but other officers remained until Thursday. Sons from all parts of Louisiana and east Texas were gathering in Arcadia.

Dallas Morning News Paper Article - May 1934



Left to right—John Fusco, Frank Hamer, Ted Hinton, Ken M. Holmes Jr. Fusco, a screen playwright, with "Young Guns 1 & 2 to his credit, is currently working on a Frank Hamer project.